

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 SSM-05  
PCH-02 SES-02 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 SIG-03 MMO-01  
/104 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH/LW  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER  
H - MR. FLATEN  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA/IAI - MR. KORN  
NEA/ARN - MR. HOWELL  
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN  
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----130961 290252Z /20

O 282258Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
SECDEF WASHDC 0000  
JCS WASHDC 0000  
CIA WASHDC 0000  
USICA WASHDC  
NSC WASHDC 0000  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 28

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE  
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 28, 1978.  
SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS MR. KENNETH BROWN.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE CARTER  
ADMINISTRATION IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING A  
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U.S. PRESENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS PART OF THE SETTLE-  
MENT. DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING ON THAT?

A. I HAVE NOTHING AT ALL ON THAT.

Q. IS THERE ANY SUCH CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO SUCH A  
PROPOSAL WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. I HAVE NO INFORMATION WHATSOEVER.

Q. THERE'S NEW EXPRESSION OF CONCERN IN ISRAEL IN, I  
THINK THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENT,  
ABOUT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON AND HOW THE SYRIANS,  
ACCORDING TO THIS COMMITTEE MIGHT DECIDE TO EXPLOIT THE

SITUATION ON THE EVE OF CAMP DAVID TALKS.

THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THE NEED TO SUPPORT THE CHRISTIANS  
IN BEIRUT. DO YOU SHARE THIS CONCERN? ARE YOU IN  
COMMUNICATION WITH THESE PEOPLE? DO YOU FEEL THE  
CHRISTIANS IN BEIRUT ARE POSSIBLY ABOUT TO BE ATTACKED  
BY THE SYRIANS?

A. I CANT ADDRESS YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. I DONT HAVE ANYTHING AS A BASIS ON WHICH TO DO IT. WE OF COURSE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FIGHTING THAT TOOK PLACE, WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE DIED DOWN. THE FIGHTING THAT WAS REPORTED OVER THE WEEKEND, THAT IS. WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST, AND I CAN REITERATE OUR CONCERN OVER SUCH FIGHTING AND OUR DESIRE TO SEE IT CEASE ALTOGETHER. OF COURSE WE HAVE NOTED OUR CONCERN FOR THE FULL EXTENSION OVER LEBANESE TERRITORY OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT.

Q. BUT THIS GROUP SEEMS TO BE POSSIBLY OPENING THE WAY FOR SOME SORT OF ISRAELI SUPPORT FOR THE CHRISTIANS. I'M UNCLASSIFIED

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JUST WONDERING, ARE YOU BEING CONSULTED ABOUT THIS BY THE ISRAELIS? ARE YOU URGING THEM ONE WAY OR THE OTHER?

A. I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT SPECIFIC LINE OF QUESTIONING.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY FIRMER SCHEDULE FOR THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT?

A. THE PRINCIPALS WILL ARRIVE ON THE 5TH. THE MEETINGS WILL BEGIN ON THE 6TH

Q. WHERE?

A. THEY ARRIVE AT CAMP DAVID ON THE 5TH.

Q. WILL THEY ARRIVE IN THE UNITED STATES EARLIER?

A. I DONT HAVE DETAILS ON THE ARRIVALS OF VARIOUS PARTS OF DELEGATIONS, OR THE PRINCIPALS. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE PRINCIPALS WILL GO TO CAMP DAVID ON THE 5TH. THE MAJOR PART OF THE MEETINGS WILL BEGIN ON THE 6TH. THIS IS NOT ANY CHANGE; THIS HAS BEEN FORESEEN FOR SOME WEEKS. I BELIEVE OVER THE WEEKEND THERE WAS A STORY THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN POSTPONED, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. THAT'S NOT THE CASE.

Q. ARE THEY GOING TO GO TO THE WHITE HOUSE FIRST, AND THEN BE TAKEN BY HELICOPTER TO CAMP DAVID?

A. THAT'S THE KIND OF DETAIL I DONT HAVE. THAT'S THE SORT OF THING THAT'S GOING TO HAVE TO COME OUT OF THE WHITE HOUSE.  
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Q. IT WAS SWITCHED BACK A DAY THOUGH WAS IT NOT? DO YOU HAVE ANY CLEAR EXPLANATION AS TO WHAT HAPPENED THERE?

A. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, EARLIER ON WHEN THERE WAS TALK ABOUT EXACTLY WHEN THEY WOULD ARRIVE, THERE WAS SOME UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHEN EXACTLY IT WOULD BE. BUT FOR SOME WEEKS NOW, IT'S BEEN UNDERSTOOD THEY WOULD ARRIVE ON THE 5TH. WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT THE CONFERENCE BEGINNING ON THE 5TH, THAT WAS THE UNDERSTANDING, THAT THEY WOULD GET HERE ON THE 5TH.

Q. WHAT ABOUT COVERAGE?

A. THAT INFORMATION I DONT HAVE. THERE WILL BE A PRESS CENTER IN THURMONT, MARYLAND. THE WHITE HOUSE IS SETTING THAT UP, AND THEY HAVE CHARGE OF THAT.

Q. AT THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL?

A. AT THE AMERICAN LEGION HALL, THAT'S RIGHT.

Q. WILL THERE BE ANY NEED FOR SPECIAL CREDENTIALS?

A. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A WHITE HOUSE CREDENTIAL, YOU WILL NEED A SPECIAL CREDENTIAL. IF YOU NEED THAT SPECIAL CREDENTIAL, RIGHT AFTER THIS BRIEFING YOU SHOULD CHECK WITH OUR PRESS OFFICE. WE'RE DOING THE ACCREDITING HERE.

Q. IS THE CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE SURE, OR IS IT OPEN ENDED?

A. I HAVE NO INFORMATION AS TO WHEN THE CONFERENCE WILL END.

Q. IS IT OPEN ENDED?

A. I DONT KNOW.

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Q. THE U.S. PRESENCE. THE IDEA OF A U.S. PRESENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. DO YOU KNOW WHERE THAT ORIGINATED? DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT POSITION ON IT IS?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHERE THAT ORIGINATED. I DON'T HAVE A SPECIFIC DEPARTMENT POSITION ON IT.

WE'VE TALKED IN THE PAST ABOUT VARYING POSSIBILITIES, DEPENDING ON WHAT THE PARTIES INVOLVED WANTED US TO DO, OR WERE INTERESTED IN US DOING. BUT IT'S REALLY PREMATURE FOR ME TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT PARTICULAR THING RIGHT NOW.

Q. WILL YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON BEGIN OR THE CABINET'S POSITIONS FROM YESTERDAY?

A. NO.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY U.S. PRESENCE, DO YOU MEAN U.S. TROOPS?

A. WELL, I WASN'T THE ONE WHO SAID U.S. PRESENCE. THAT WAS PART OF THE QUESTION.

Q. IT WAS THE PRESIDENT WHO SAID IT.

A. I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO ADDRESS IT. I'M JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO.

Q. ANYTHING ON THE GENEVA CONFERENCE?

A. DO YOU HAVE A SPECIFIC QUESTION ON THAT?

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Q. WELL, JUST WHAT OUR REACTION IS TO THE DECLARATION THAT WAS ADOPTED THERE, I GUESS, SOMETHING LIKE THAT? I'LL TAKE ANYTHING YOU HAVE.

A. THE QUESTION REFERS TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, WHICH ENDED ON SATURDAY, THE 26TH OF AUGUST WITH THE ADOPTION OF A DRAFT DECLARATION AND A PROGRAM OF ACTION.

THE U.S. DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF THE LINKAGE OF THE 1975 U.N. RESOLUTION WHICH EQUATED ZIONISM AND RACISM WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DECADE AGAINST RACISM, OF WHICH THIS WAS A PART.

WE FOLLOWED THE PROCEEDINGS CLOSELY, HOWEVER. WE WERE PLEASED THAT THAT FINAL DOCUMENT DID NOT CONTAIN A DEFINITION OF ZIONISM AS RACISM. WE SHARE THE VIEW OF THOSE ATTENDING THE MEETING WHO FELT THAT SELECTIVE CONDEMNATION WOULD DEVIATE FROM THE PURPOSE OF THE

DECADE, WHICH IS TO FOSTER AND PROMOTE UNIVERSAL PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE AN EFFECTIVE STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM.

AS YOU MAY KNOW THE MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, AND NORWAY WALKED OUT OF THE CONFERENCE AND DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION BECAUSE OF THE LANGUAGE CONDEMNING ISRAEL.

Q. DID YOU SAY SELECTIVE CONDEMNATION? DID I HEAR THAT TERM THERE?

WE ARE OPPOSED, THAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS OPPOSED TO SELECTIVE CONDEMNATION?

A. THAT'S CORRECT.

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Q. SO THAT WE TRY SINCERELY TO APPLY THAT IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON COUNTRIES ALL OVER THE WORLD. IS THAT CORRECT?

A. THE POINT IS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONCUR AN EQUATION OF ZIONISM WITH RACISM. WE WOULD NOT CONCUR IN A SELECTIVE CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL FOR A POLICY WHICH WE DO NOT CONSIDER TO BE RACISM.

Q. COMING BACK TO THE AMERICAN PRESENCE THING, HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING OR SEEN ANYTHING WITH REGARD TO THE MONITORING SERVICE WE HAVE IN THE SINAI? IS THERE ANY CHANGE IN THAT SITUATION WHATEVER OR A CONTEMPLATED CHANGE?

A. I'M NOT AWARE OF A CHANGE OR CONTEMPLATED CHANGE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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